

PROBE VIBRATING ASSEMBLY FOR ENDOSCOPIC PROCEDURES

Cross-Reference to Related Application

5 This application is based upon provisional application Serial No. 60/456,329, filed March 20, 2003.

Background of the Invention

Various endoscopic procedures are used which involve the insertion of probe type devices such as a wire or needle into difficult to reach portions of the body for various medical purposes. For example, Endoscopic Retrograde Chlongio Pancreato Graphy (ERCP) utilizes a wire inserted into the bile duct. Since the bile duct is a difficult to reach area, there are difficulties with the conventional prior art techniques in locating the bile duct entrance. For example, it is necessary for the wire to enter the bile duct opening (pappila of vater) which might be only a 5 millimeter opening in order to locate the endoscope viewing area in the bile duct and pancreatic duct. This is conventionally done under fluoroscopy and conventionally is a blind process where a thin wire inserted through a catheter blindly probes by twirling or rotating the wire until the opening is found. It would be desirable if some technique could be developed wherein the surgeon can have a more convenient and more

accurate procedure for inserting the wire into the bile duct opening.

Another known technique which utilizes an endoscope at difficult to reach areas involves the retrieval of cancerous cells by use of a fine needle to break up the cells in the tumor and then obtain the specimen from the cells through aspiration.

Summary of the Invention

An object of this invention is to provide improvements in the ERCP procedure which avoids the problems of the prior art.

A further object of this invention is to provide improvements in the biopsy techniques for obtaining cancer cells and particularly to increase the yield of cancer cells.

In accordance with this invention a probe vibrating assembly is provided wherein a wire or needle is clamped to an oscillating mechanism in order to vibrate the wire or needle so that the wire or needle moves to and fro to better locate the difficult to reach areas. Where a wire is used the wire could function as a guide wire to facilitate the insertion of the catheter and the endoscope viewing area into the difficult to reach location. Where a fine needle is

used, the vibration of the needle could effectively break up the cancer cells and thereby facilitate the aspiration or suction of the cells so as to increase the yield of the cancer cells that could be used for test purposes.

5 **Brief Description of the Drawings:**

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a wire probe vibrating assembly for endoscopic procedures;

Figure 2 is a right end elevational view of the assembly shown in Figure 1 with the clamp in an open position:

Figure 3 is an enlarged top plan view of a portion of the assembly shown in Figures 1-2;

Figure 4 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken through line 4-4 of Figure 1;

Figure 5 is an enlarged right elevational view taken through the line 5-5 of Figure 1;

Figure 6 is a side elevational view of a modified form of vibrating system in accordance with a further aspect of this invention where the probe is a needle:

Figure 7 is a right side elevational view of the assembly shown in Figure 6; and

Figure 8 is a top plan view of a portion of the assembly shown in Figures 6-7.

Detailed Description

The present invention, in general, involves a system which includes an elongated flexible probe attached to an endoscope. The probe is clamped to a vibration creating assembly which may be actuated in any manner such as by a foot pedal to vibrate the probe in a to and fro motion. The use of a foot pedal permits the surgeon to control the vibration and probe movements which could range from speeds of 15 rpm to 8,000 rpm or more, preferably 100 rpm to 3,000 rpm or 4,000 rpm.

The probe may be a wire which would act as a guide wire for finding an opening such as the bile duct opening to facilitate the movement of a catheter through that opening and into a difficult to reach location, such as a bile duct, for viewing by the endoscope. Alternatively, the probe could be a fine needle whereby the vibrating needle would break up cancer cells of a tumor to increase the yield of cells retrieved through aspiration or other conventional techniques.

Where the probe is a guide wire the wire would be of floppy or flexible structure so that the longitudinal vibration of the wire readily finds its way into the opening which then permits more conventional procedures such as used in ERCP to be used. Such guide wire could be removed or left in place. While specific reference is made to the bile duct the same practices could be used for other difficult to locate regions such as the pancreatic duct.

Once the probe has served its function of entering the difficult to locate areas the conventional techniques, such as endoscopic ultrasound could be used.

The invention could be used to identify mass tumors in a manner more effective than MRI.

Where the probe is a fine needle the needle would pass through areas such as the pancreas and would be used to break cancer cells which would then be removed through suction or aspiration such as by a suction syringe where the materials are squirted onto a slide. Sufficient passes could be used to obtain the desired amount of test tissue. The needle could be the vibrating pointed tip of the probe which would be inserted into a tumor to break the cells as a result of the longitudinal vibration of the needle thereby facili-

tating suction retrieval. If desired, the needle may have an axial stylet to facilitate unblocking the needle as the needle vibrates.

In general, the system includes structure for creating a rotary motion that is converted into an oscillating linear motion to oscillate the probe back and forth over a predetermined length. Preferably, the probe is driven by a high variable speed mechanism which is preferably controlled with a foot pedal. It is to be understood, however, that other actuating and speed control structures could be used within the practice of the invention. The probe is preferably clamped with a spring clamp to permit quick load and release. This subassembly is desired to slide so that as the probe is being vibrated the probe can be extended or retracted within a catheter as desired without effecting the frequency of the vibration. These features create great potential for a successful process. This subassembly is then preferably attached to an endoscope so that the vibration could be maximized eliminating the loss of vibration between the scope and the vibrator.

Figures 1-5 illustrate a probe vibrating assembly 10 in accordance with this invention. As shown therein

assembly 10 includes a main body 12. An oscillating head 14 is mounted on main body 12. Oscillating head includes a clamp mechanism 16 which is used for clamping a probe in the form of a wire 18 for oscillating movement as shown by the 5 arrow 20.

The actuation and control of the speed of oscillation may be accomplished in any suitable manner. Figure 1 shows a variable speed foot pedal 22 having a pivoted actuating surface 24. A surgeon, for example, would 10 control the speed by the extent of depression of surface 24 when the surgeon's foot is placed on surface 24. Variable speed foot pedal 22 is electrically connected to a variable speed motor 26 which in turn rotates a spindle 28 through its connection from flexible cable 30. See Figures 2 and 5. 15 Spindle 28 rotates about its central axis within roller bearings 32. Positioned in roller bearings 34 is a drive member 36 eccentrically mounted to spindle 28 and connected as part of oscillating head 14.

Instead of controlling the speed through a variable 20 speed foot pedal, a manually operable variable speed control mechanism could be used. Such manually operable variable speed control could include an on/off switch and a manually

rotatable dial on the control housing could be rotated to select the desired speed. The manual speed control mechanism could be electrically connected to variable speed motor 26 which would then operate in the same manner as when activated by the variable speed foot pedal 22.

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When spindle 28 is rotated under the actuation of motor 26 and variable speed control, such as foot pedal 22, spindle 28 rotates about its longitudinal axis. During this rotation the eccentric mounting of drive member 36 causes the drive member 36 to move in an eccentric path with its longitudinal axis spaced from the longitudinal axis of spindle 28.

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As shown in Figure 4 drive member 36 is mounted in an elongated slot 38 in slide plate 40 causing slide plate 40 to reciprocate back and forth in a path perpendicular to the axis of spindle 28 as indicated by the arrow 20 of Figure 1.

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The clamp mechanism 16 is mounted to oscillating head 14. As best shown in Figure 5 and also shown in Figure 2 clamp mechanism 16 includes a pivotally mounted U-shaped lever 42 mounted about pivot pin 44. Lever 42 is spring biased by means of two sets of springs 46 in a closing or counterclockwise direction. Lever 42 is disposed against a

generally cylindrical clamp housing 48. Mounted within clamp housing 48 is a fixed clamp seat 50 and a movable clamping member 52. Housing 48 also includes a notch 54 of a shape to receive wire 18. When it is desired to clamp the wire 18 in the clamp mechanism 16, lever 42 is pushed downwardly in a clockwise direction as shown in phantom in Figure 5. This permits clamping member 52 to be capable of moving upwardly in passageway 56 of clamp housing 48. Wire 18 is then inserted into clamp housing 48 on seat 50 and against notch 54. Lever 42 is then released and is moved in a counter-clockwise direction under the influence of springs 46 to firmly clamp wire 18 in place. As illustrated the lower portion of clamp member 52 may be shaped to conform to the shape of wire 18 or may include serrations to better grip the wire.

As shown in Figure 1 wire 18 is inserted into a conventional catheter 58 which is mounted in a passageway in block 60 and extends into a medical scope or endoscope 62. Endoscope 62 is detachably secured by clamp mechanism 64 to main body 12. Clamp mechanism 64 may take any suitable form such as by being a pair of pivotally mounted clamp members each of which has an arcuate groove or indent for receiving

the circular endoscope body. Catheter 58 extends through scope 62 with wire 18 extending out of catheter 58. Catheter 58 and wire 18 is inserted into the area near the bile duct 66. Wire 18 is vibrated back and forth until it enters the bile duct opening at which point the endoscope can view the bile duct and normal ERCP procedures can be used.

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As shown in Figure 1 slide plate 40 is guided in its vibrating movement by being mounted under retainer plates 41 to confine the slide plate against the top of body 12 while the slide plate is moving back and forth.

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Figures 6-8 show an alternative use of assembly 10 for collecting specimens such as cancerous tissue from a tumor. As shown therein the clamping mechanism 16 would be used for mounting the probe assembly 68. As illustrated probe assembly 68 includes an outer cylinder 70 and a plunger 72. A thin flexible needle 74 is inserted through cylinder 70 and plunger 72. Needle 74 could be attached to a pull handle 76.

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As illustrated in Figure 7 the cylinder 70 would be mounted against seat 50 of clamp mechanism 16 by having the arcuate inner surface 78 of lever 42 spring biased to the closing position in the same manner as the clamping of wire

18. A second clamping mechanism 16A would be used for clamping against the plunger 72. Clamp mechanism 16A differs from clamp mechanism 16 in that clamp mechanism 16A is fixed or stationary, thus remaining in one position whereas clamp mechanism 16 would move back and forth as shown by the arrow 20 to thereby move the cylinder 70 and needle 74 back and forth in a vibratory manner. Needle 74 would extend through medical scope 62 and be disposed against tumor 80 so that the vibrating motion would cause a break up the tumor tissue to permit, for example, cancerous tissue to be removed under the suction created when handle 76 is pulled outwardly.

10 The invention may be broadly practiced where any form of vibration is used to cause a needle, wire or other collecting device to collect cells, such as, but not limited 15 to cancerous tissue.

20 As is apparent the assembly provides quick change capability for either of the options of using a vibrating wire or a vibrating needle. The fixed head or clamp mechanism 16A can be removed for one option and a wire adapter can be provided to clamp the wire for this same procedure.

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Accordingly, the same basic probe vibrating assembly 10 could be used to vibrate a probe in the form of a wire or a probe in the form of a needle.

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